

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 /067 W

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O R 271207Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2045

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5135

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: US FORCES IN THAILAND

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESS ATTACHE TODAY, JOE LELYVELD OF NEW YORK TIMES ASCRIBED TO GOI FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK VIEWS ON SEA THAT, IF ACCURATE, ARE STRIKING DEPARTURE FROM MALIK'S PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED POSITIVE OPINIONS OF US PRESENCE IN THE REGION.

2. LELYVELD SAID HE TALKED WITH MALIK TWO DAYS AGO IN JAKARTA. MALIK REPORTEDLY AGREED WITH RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS BY RTG OFFICIALS AIMED AT WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM THAILAND AND CESSATION OF AMMUNITION FLIGHTS FROM THAILAND TO CAMBODIA.

3. LELYVELD QUOTED MALIK AS SAYING THAT "THE AMERICANS HAVE SHOWN THEY ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO USE THEIR MILITARY PRESENCE AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE...(AND)...THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF US MILITARY FORCES IN THE AREA SERVES NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN TO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT REALIZATION OF THE DESIRE OF ASEAN NATIONS TO DEVELOP BETTWER RELATIONS IN THE REGION."

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4. LELYVELD FURTHER SAID MALIK EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT

"WITHOUT THE AMERICAN PRESENCE, NON-COMMUNIST SEA NATIONS WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS IN CARRYING ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS."

5. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING JAKARTA'S VIEW WHETHER THESE REPORTED COMMENTS ACCURATELY REFLECT CURRENT GOI THINKING.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE TEXT SOONEST IF LELYVELD ARTICLE CONCERNING HIS TALK WITH MALIK APPEARS NYT.
MASTERS

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NNN

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